

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 071410Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3616

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0849

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJECT: KAGNEW FOUR

REF: STATE 237566

1. CONGEN DOES PERCEIVE A ROLE FOR CISCO IN SEEKING RELEASE CISCO TWO AND POSSIBLY ALL KAGNEW FOUR. DESPITE FACT THAT CISCO IS DEFENSE CONTRACTOR, THERE IS NOTHING TO PREVENT EITHER COLLINS ITSELF OR ITS PARENT COMPANY, ROCKWELL INT., FROM INTERVENING WITH INSURGENTS ALONG LINES OF EARLIER TENNECO EFFORT. DO NOT BELIEVE CISCO EMPLOYEES IN ASMARA, INCLUDING MCCALISTER, SHOULD BE TASKED WITH THIS AS THEY TOO CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH KAGNEW AND USG, AND TOO VULNERABLE BOTH TO FRONT AND TO EPMG. HOWEVER, BELIEVE APPEARANCE IN KHARTOUM, FOR EXAMPLE, OF COLLINS OR ROCKWELL EXECUTIVE PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE FOR HOSTAGES' RELEASE, WITH FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE FROM AMEMB KHARTOUM AND SUDANESE GOVERNMENT, COULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL INITIATIVE.

2. BY NOW, INSURGENTS MUST BE BECOMING AWARE THAT DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH USG NOT POSSIBLE, BUT THEY MAY WELL PROVE RESPONSIVE TO APPROACH FROM COMPANY. INTERVENTION BY CISCO COULD BEGIN, AS SUGGESTED REFTEL, WITH EXPRESSION OF CONCERN FOR WELFARE OF CAPTIVES, OFFER TO PROVIDE FOOD AND MEDICINE, ETC., WHICH COULD SET STAGE FOR CONTINUING

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DISCUSSION LOOKING TOWARD THEIR EVENTUAL RELEASE.

3. IT APPEARS TO US THAT INSURGENTS UNLIKELY TO BE
WHOLLY RESPONSIVE TO CURRENT THIRD-PARTY INTERVENTIONS AND
WILL INSIST ON SOME FORM OF DIRECT AMERICAN INTEREST. AS ON
PRESENT FORM USG CANNOT DO THIS, IT APPEARS TO US THAT
CISCO IS OUR BEST BET.
SHERRY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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